



CITY OF HAVERHILL

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer St., Room 202

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Emergency Meeting – In-Person/Remote

Present – President Jordan, Councilors Barrett, Bevilacqua, Sullivan, and Rogers
Attending Remotely – Councilors Michitson, Lewandowski, McGonagle, and Toohey
Administrative Assistant – Laurie A. Brown
Assistant City Clerk – Rose Leonard-Flynn
City Clerk – Kaitlin M. Wright

1. **OPENING PRAYER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**
4. **ASSIGNMENT OF THE MINUTES REVIEW FOR THE NEXT MEETING**
Councilor Barrett assigned the minutes.
5. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:**

- 5.1. Mayor Fiorentini declares State of Emergency due to flooding on August 8, 2023, and requests the City Council join the Mayor in declaring and signing off on State of Emergency 9-S

Motion by Councilor Bevilacqua, second Councilor Barrett

Mayor Fiorentini addressed the Council remotely stating the Mayor can declare a state of emergency. The DOR says that if the city needs to deficit spend, then the City Council must join in and have to file the declaration of emergency with the Department of Revenue. Relatively confident that we won't have to emergency spend because there is enough reserves in the waste water budget and some set aside for capital, however, in the even that we do if we don't have a declaration of emergency we run afoul with purchasing laws, etc. Asking to declare a declaration of emergency and will file with the Department of Revenue.

Councilor Bevilacqua stated he spoke with the Mayor to consider a special emergency fund for homeowners and businesses and spoke with the SBA to help assist as well.

Chief Pistone addressed the Council explaining there are two thresholds needed to meet in order to receive federal funding. For Essex County the dollar amount is \$3.5 million, State wide is \$12.4 million. As of today, 85 residents estimated damage claims at \$1.6 million, and 10 businesses at \$2.2 million. Cautions this is just the beginning, there are no guarantees for money and usually not grants but loans. Feel will hit county wide threshold. NEMA will collect, review, and make a recommendation to the governor who will then contact FEMA. The Federal government decides, and it is all based on standards. Claim forms can be found on the police website, city website, can call 311 or contact Adam Durkee at the police department. The forms need to be completed by August 17th. Also, a home cleanup hotline for those needing help, call 617-207-5633. Also commended the DPW, water, wastewater, fire department, police department and all the city departments for their outstanding job.

Motion by Councilor Sullivan to contact State and Federal Legislative Delegation a letter of support for our pending NEMA and FEMA applications, second Councilor Barrett



CITY OF HAVERHILL

CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

August 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Theodore A. Pelosi, Jr. Council Chambers, 4 Summer St., Room 202

In-Person/Remote Meeting

Emergency Meeting – In-Person/Remote

Councilor Sullivan introduced Lisa Corr of 76 Gale Avenue who had substantial flooding during the storm due to city catch basins covered by vegetation (pictures shown). Several Councilors also visited her home to look at the damage. It is up to us as a city to get ahead of the identified problem spots and permanent solutions going forward.

Councilor Barrett also received numerous calls from residents who suffered from culverts, and brooks overflowing dramatically. One at Franzone Drive the other at 236 Salem Street. Salem Street damage was from across the roadway. Need to sit down and discuss below the ground infrastructure, capital management, look at overwhelming systems and formulate a plan.

Megan Bowen and Colleen Williams of 236 Salem Street appeared remotely giving a description of the damage done to their home and property due to the flooding. Explained has happened before due to the city infrastructure.

Councilor McGonagle suggested a ranking of city infrastructure to prioritize repairs going forward.

Councilor Bevilacqua requested the motion to include Senators as well.

President Jordan supports state of emergency and will support letters to delegation. Stressed need to do a better job investing in the city infrastructure. Support trying to get as much money from the government as possible but can't think the federal government will take care of this.

Motion by Councilor Bevilacqua to join Mayor in declaring State of Emergency, second Councilor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

Motion by Councilor Sullivan to send letters to State and Federal Delegation advocating for FEMA and NEMA relief, second Councilor Barrett

PASSED

Yeas 9, Nays 0

6. ORDINANCES (FILE 10 DAYS)

6.1. Loan Order - \$3,800,000 for modular classrooms at JG Whittier Middle School

File 10 days

Motion by Councilor , second Councilor

PASSED Placed on File

Yeas 9, Nays 0

12-G

7. COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

8. DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO COMMITTEE STUDY

9. LONG TERM MATTERS STUDY LIST

10. ADJOURN:

Motion by Councilor Sullivan, second Councilor

PASSED

All in Favor

Adjourned 19:47